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SOURCE As indicated

INDICATE SUSPENSION OF WORK  
 ON GREAT IRRIGATION-WATERWAY PROJECTS OF USSR

There were no references in available Soviet newspapers and periodicals for the second half of 1953 to the "great Stalin construction projects of Communism" -- the Main Turkmen Canal, the South Ukrainian and North Crimean Canals, the Lower Don Construction, and the Volga-Ural Canal. The Kakhovka, Kuybyshev, and Stalingrad Hydroelectric Centers, on the other hand, continued to receive substantial coverage in the Soviet press and construction was reported to be progressing according to plan.

This development confirms a trend previously noted (OO-W-27804) in the press treatment of the Main Turkmen Canal in the second quarter of 1953. The absence of any reference to the South Ukrainian and North Crimean Canals, the Lower Don Construction, and the Volga-Ural Canal in the second half of 1953 may indicate that work has been suspended on all four of these projects.

Izvestiya of 12 March 1954 reports that V. S. Eristov is chief construction engineer of the Novosibirskaya GES. According to Slavyane, No 8, of August 1951, he was chief engineer of the Main Turkmen Canal. Similarly, A. Ye. Bochkin, who was construction chief of the South Ukrainian and North Crimean Canals according to Sovetskaya Belorussiya of 26 February 1952, is now reported by Pravda of 4 February 1954 to be construction chief of the Angarskaya GES.

Evidence of other large-scale irrigation work in the Turkmen and Ukrainian SSRs may indicate that the great projects partially within their borders have been postponed in favor of work which will yield more immediate results.

Information on irrigation projects in the Turkmen and Ukrainian SSRs follows. Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

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In Tashauz Oblast, Turkmen SSR, through which a part of the Main Turkmen Canal was to extend, existing irrigation canals and hydraulic structures were being repaired and expanded. In October 1953, seven new hydraulic centers were under construction on main and distribution canals. Forty locks had been built on kolkhozes and 20 were under construction. In the first three quarters of 1953, more than 2.5 million cubic meters of earth (almost 30 percent more than in the same period of 1952) had been removed by machinery, including large earth-removing equipment supplied to the machine-excavator stations.(1)

S. Babiyev, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Turkmen Communist Party, announced that in 1954 the USSR government will spend more than 100 million rubles on construction of the Kara-Kum Canal between the Amu Dar'ya and Murgab rivers.(2) This irrigation canal across Chardzhouskaya and Maryyskaya oblasts in the eastern portion of the Turkmen SSR constitutes the first phase of the Great Kara-Kum Canal. The length of the canal between the Amu Dar'ya and Murgab rivers is to be 437 kilometers.

The first 46 kilometers, known as the Bassaga-Kerkinskiy Canal, were completed in 1929; from there the waters of the Amu Dar'ya run for 79 kilometers through the old river bed of the Kalifskiy Uzboy. At this point, there is a reservoir which is 32,000 square meters in area and over 300 million cubic meters in volume. From here, the route of the canal extends for more than 200 kilometers through the arid southeastern part of the Kara-Kum desert. Near the outskirts of the oblast capital of Mary, the canal flows into the Murgab River.

The Kara-Kum Canal will take about 13 percent of the annual flow of the Amu Dar'ya. When the first and second phases are completed, the canal is expected to irrigate over 250,000 hectares of land. Plans call for the canal to extend eventually as far west as Ashkhabad and possibly further toward the Caspian Sea.(3)

Ukrainian SSR

In the Ukrainian SSR, work on the Ingulets Irrigation System to the northwest of the projected South Ukrainian and North Crimean Canals has gone forward. The Construction and Installation Administration No 14 of Ukrvodstroy, with headquarters at Snigirevka, Nikolayevskaya Oblast, has been placed in charge of construction.(4)

In December 1953, construction of a pumping station for the Verkhne-Ingulets Irrigation System was begun. The pumping station was to be the largest structure of the irrigation system. Seven centrifugal pumps were to deliver 33 cubic meters of water per second into the main canal of the irrigation system.(5) The project also includes Oktyabr'skiy Reservoir and its dam.(4)

Work on the Nizhne-Ingulets Irrigation System was in progress during the winter of 1953-1954. Work quotas for January and February were exceeded and concreting of the pumping station had started by March 1954. More than 500 kilometers of canal were being built in Belozerskiy and Khersonskiy rayons. The workers had pledged to remove or move more than 6.5 million cubic meters of earth in 1954.(5)

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SOURCES

1. Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 2 Oct 53
2. Frunze, Kyzyl Kyrgyzstan, 28 Jan 54
3. Moscow, Glavnyy Turkmenskiy Kanal (The Main Turkmen Canal), by V.B. Zhmayda, 1951
4. Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 6 Feb 52
5. Moscow, Gudok, 4 Dec 53
6. Moscow, Izvestiya, 11 Mar 54

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